

DIRECTION 115

MEROPIDAE (AVES): ATTRIBUTED TO RAFINESQUE, 1815
(CORRECTION TO ENTRY No. 1 IN THE OFFICIAL LIST OF
FAMILY-GROUP NAMES IN ZOOLOGY)

RULING. — Entry No. 1 in the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology is to be amended to read:

MEROPIDAE Rafinesque, 1815, *Analyse de la Nature* (Palermo), p. 66.

HISTORY OF THE CASE Z.N.(S.)2286

An application for the amendment of the author and date of the family-group name MEROPIDAE in entry No. 1 of the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology was first received from Dr P. S. Tomkovich and Dr G. N. Kashin (Moscow) on 29 September 1978. It was sent to the printer on 8 May 1979 and published on 25 October 1979 in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 36, p. 154. No use of the plenary powers was involved. No comments were received.

DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 6 July 1983 the members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (1983)11 for or against the proposal set out in *Bull. zool. Nom.* vol. 36, p. 154. At the close of the voting period on 6 October 1983 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes—seventeen (17) received in the following order: Melville, Holthuis, Schuster, Willink, Mroczkowski, Hahn, Trjapitzin, Starobogatov, Bayer, Uéno, Sabrosky, Binder, Ride, Dupuis, Halvorsen, Brinck, Corliss

Negative Votes—none (0).

Late affirmative votes were received from Alvarado, Cocks and Heppell. Welch was on leave of absence. No votes were returned by Bernardi, Cogger, Kraus, Lehtinen and Savage.

The following comments were returned by members of the Commission with their voting papers:

Hahn: 'I agree with hesitation: (1) is it certain that Rafinesque used "Meropia" in the same sense as MEROPIDAE is used today? (2) is it certain that Rafinesque was indeed the first author of MEROPIDAE or must we expect that other, still earlier authors will be found in future?' [The application showed that Rafinesque used 'Meropia' for a taxon based on *Merops* Linnaeus, 1758, hence with the same meaning as that now given to MEROPIDAE. Time alone holds the answer to Professor Hahn's second question. R.V.M.)

Dupuis: 'Je suis toujours favorable à l'amendement des auteurs et dates des noms de rang familial, car la priorité des informations de cette sorte est toujours très délicate à établir'.

'Dans le cas particulier, je vote donc pour. Je regrette néanmoins le caractère trop sommaire de la requête. Pour m'assurer que *Meropia* avait été véritablement voulu comme taxon supergénérique par son auteur, j'ai dû consulter le travail de Richmond (*Auk* vol. 26, 1909, pp. 37-55, 248-262). J'ai constaté (1) qu'il s'agit de "A reprint of the ornithological writings of C. S. Rafinesque" (c'est important, car l'existence de ce reprint évite d'avoir à ergoter sur l'accessibilité de l'original) et (2) que Rafinesque, 1815 a créé de nombreux noms de familles et sous-familles, fondés (mais non tous) sur des noms de genres d'oiseaux (certains sont, toutefois, des nomina nuda). On y trouve, en particulier, p. 66 de l'original (p. 44 de *Auk*) "sous-famille *Meropia*. Les Méropiens" avec le genre *Merops* L. inclus. Il fallait s'assurer de la mention d'un rang supergénérique et d'un genre inclus'.

'J'estime que la requête aurait dû apporter clairement ces précisions aux membres de la Commission et j'espère que mon commentaire aura au moins l'avantage d'attirer l'attention sur un reprint utile et apparemment peu connu.'

ORIGINAL REFERENCE

The original reference to the name that is the subject of the ruling in the present Direction is that given in the Ruling above.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the votes cast in V.P.(83)11 were cast as set out above, that the proposal contained in that voting paper has been duly adopted, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, is truly recorded in the present Direction No. 115.

R. V. MELVILLE

Secretary

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature

London

8 December 1983